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March 12, 2002 LB 707

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Time.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...do that. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President. I rise in opposition to AM1125, which does greatly raise the limitation amounts. I stand also in support of the committee amendment. Without that amendment or any of the I think thirteen that follow this one, I also support LB 707 and what Senator Beutler is attempting to do and, in that spirit, I would yield the remainder of my time to Senator Beutler, if he would so choose to use it.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Preister, thank you very much. I...we...we get very far from the amendments when we get into these wide-ranging discussions of the philosophy generally of campaign finance reform and that's not bad, except we tend to forget about what the amendment does. But this amendment really would kill the whole campaign finance reform act because it makes such radical increases in all of the campaign limitation amounts. It's raising, for example, the Public Service Commission limitation from \$50,000 to \$425,000. And with regard to the Board of Regents and with regard to the Board of State...State Board of Education, it raises the amounts from \$50,000 to \$425,000. And for Treasurer and Secretary of State and Auditor, it raises the amount from \$150,000 to \$840,000. So, again, you know, if you want to kill the act, that's...that's one thing, but if you want to try to make it better it...you certainly would not want to vote for this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Beutler, you are recognized as the next speaker. Question has been called. Can I see five hands? I see five hands. The question is...the question is, shall debate cease? All in favor vote aye; all opposed vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.